

December 17, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Re: In the matter of reliability and continuity of communications networks, including broadband technologies effects on broadband communications networks of damage or failure of network equipment or severe overload; Improving wireless network resiliency through encouraging coordination with power companies; PS Docket No. 11-60*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 15, 2020, representatives of CTIA, the Edison Electric Institute, NCTA-The Internet and Television Association, and USTelecom-The Broadband association met via telephone with staff from the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau to provide an update on the Cross-Sector Resiliency Forum (see Attachment for list of attendees).

Earlier this year the nation's leading communications providers and investor-owned electric companies, and their major trade associations, announced the creation of the Cross-Sector Resiliency Forum. The Cross-Sector Resiliency Forum represents a collaborative effort towards advancing resiliency through improving information sharing, identifying lessons learned from previous events, and enhancing coordination between the communications and electric industries before, during, and in the immediate aftermath of emergencies and disasters. The Forum builds on the long track record of coordination by individual communications providers and electric companies at the local level and brings together a broad cross-section of stakeholders in one venue to discuss resiliency and response efforts related to hurricanes, wildfires and other emergency and disaster events.

More than forty industry representatives convened last spring to identify and prioritize the Cross-Sector Resiliency Forum's initial objectives.<sup>1</sup> Through these efforts, the participants identified short-term, medium-term, and long-term activities to advance resiliency. Participants subsequently worked throughout the following months to begin implementing many of these initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Matthew Gerst, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA, et al., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, PS Docket No. 11-60 (Jun. 26, 2020).

Last month, the Cross-Sector Resiliency Forum reconvened to review efforts of communications providers and investor-owned electric companies to respond to the recent hurricane and wildfire seasons. Participants refined and reviewed progress on initiatives, identified lessons learned from the 2020 hurricane and wildfire seasons, and established action items for 2021.

The participants also noted a heightened commitment to cross-sector coordination and cooperation within many of their organizations since the creation of the Forum. The past year presented some of the most challenging conditions yet—the busiest Atlantic hurricane season on record, an historic wildfire season in a number of western states, and an assortment of constraints presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, even in the face of these challenges, participants identified a number of instances of improved cooperation and coordination between communications providers and electric utilities. Examples included:

- Communications providers and electric companies exchanging response priorities, which in turn allowed their counterparts to incorporate this information into their restoration strategies;
- Electric companies providing estimates of restoration timelines, allowing communications providers to know where to deploy portable generators; and
- Companies conducting daily cross-sector coordination briefings during major events.

While there is more work to be done, the above examples represent activities that facilitate sharing of service expectations and planning needs to allow for better coordination during emergency and disaster events, and these efforts will also promote overall resiliency.

Our industry sectors recognize that enhanced cooperation and coordination can help ensure the continuity and expedited restoration of critical communications and electric services during and after emergencies and disasters. To that end, we look forward to continuing to apprise the Commission of the Cross-Sector Resiliency Forum's efforts to identify and implement resiliency and coordination activities that help ensure critical services will be available when Americans need them the most.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed in the ECFS and provided to the Commission meeting attendees. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew Gerst

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Attachments

## Attachment

The following individuals, identified by agency, company, or association, attended the December 15, 2020 meeting.

### FCC PSHSB

Emily Caditz  
Beau Findley  
Jennifer Holtz  
Ken Mallory  
Renee Roland

### CTIA

Matthew Gerst  
Michael Mullinix

### EI

Aryeh Fishman  
Wallace Mealiea

### NCTA

Steve Morris

### USTelecom

Kayla Gardner